

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The hon. secretaries of the associations of "Queen's" Superintendents of the Northern and Southern counties ask us to announce that subscriptions to the testimonial to be presented to Miss Peter, the retiring General Superintendent of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, by Queen's Nurses, past and present, will be received up to October 7th, when the fund will be finally closed. Subscriptions should be sent to the hon. treasurer of the fund, Miss Mantell, 54, Knatchbull Road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

The Matron of a hospital in the provinces in applying for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, writes:—"For some years I was on the extra staff at St. Thomas's Hospital, and when I left that hospital the Matron in office at the time told me that she did not give certificates, or any written testimonials, but would answer any questions, which fact I have proved to be an error, for "they" never seem to remember my working for some years on their extra staff. But when I was applying from that hospital for an appointment as Matron, one of the Resident Medical Physicians gave me a testimonial which obtained for me my present appointment as Matron of this hospital, a position I have held for over twelve years. You are quite at liberty to use this information, as I think it a disgrace to any hospital that a nurse has to apply to a junior medical officer for a testimonial to enable her to obtain an appointment as Matron, but such was the fact. I should not be in my present position had I not asked a friendly resident medical officer to assist me. The Matron is the proper person to help her nurses to preferment, and until we Matrons do so how can we expect our nursing staff to be loyal to us and respect our position."

We are entirely in sympathy with the view that it is right and fitting for a nurse to apply to the Matron for help in obtaining a post, and—provided, of course, that her work has been satisfactory—she should be able to do so with confidence, knowing that the necessary assistance will be given. It is a real hardship to many that, up till quite recently St. Thomas's Hospital gave no certificate to the nurses who passed through the

training-school. In the future its nurses will have a certificate to show for their years of hard work, but this will not remove the disabilities of the many hundreds who have already passed through its wards.

The Mikado has conferred on Mrs. Teresa Richardson, a Welsh lady who returned home last week by the *Lucania* after fifteen months of nursing work amongst the Japanese soldiers, the highest decoration for ladies in Japan, namely, the Sixth Class Order of the Crown, of which King Edward has sanctioned her acceptance. This decoration carries with it the order of knighthood. The Japanese Red Cross Society has accorded her their highest honour, namely, the Order of Merit, and in addition to these two orders she has received two medals. Mrs. Richardson went out to Japan on the invitation of Viscount Hayashi, and on his initiative she was admitted a member of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the only English lady so honoured. The qualification which gained for her this distinction was that she is a fluent linguist, speaking both French and German. She also had experience of Army Nursing in the South African campaign. For the first nine months she worked in hospitals in Tokio, and subsequently was sent to Hiro Shimi, the Netley of Japan. Mrs. Richardson's name amongst the wounded was "Our English Mother." She speaks enthusiastically of Japanese nursing.

The efficiency of the nursing service of the Japanese Red Cross is the more remarkable because of the position accorded to women in that country. A correspondent in an interesting article in the *Times* states:—"Upon all Japanese, whether they are Buddhists or Shintoists, Confucian ethics and Confucian practices have a strong hold, especially as Bushido, the way of knightly behaviour, is founded upon the teachings of the great Chinese sage. Confucius taught that men and women must not sit in the same room, that a woman must not take any object from the hand of a man nor pass it to him. Hence the idea of female nurses appeared an outrage to the Japanese sense of decency. At first an attempt was made to obtain male nurses, but as the most prominent Japanese doctors expressed the deliberate opinion that women had a far greater natural aptitude for that delicate task it was resolved to make an attempt at converting the whole nation to a more broad-minded view as to the duties of a modest and virtuous woman notwithstanding the teachings of Confucius.

"The example had evidently to be set by the first ladies in the land. Princess Arisugawa assembled in 1887 a large number of the foremost Japanese princesses, Ministers' wives, &c., and succeeded in persuading them that it was their duty to learn nursing in order to set the example of self-sacrifice to the nation. Although their sense of modesty was

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